

ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st. DECEMBER 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Urban District of Ilminster for the year ended 31st. December 1938.

Social Conditions of the District.

There was rather less employment in 1938 than in the previous year, this applies more particularly to male employment, females as usual have had little shortage of work in the Urban District; a certain number of women who were previously employed in a shirt & collar factory in Ilminster now go daily to Taunton to do similar work.

There are no unhealthy occupations in the area.

Statistical Memoranda.

Area: 519 acres.

Population Mid 1938 (estimated Figure Registrar General) 2,177

Number of inhabited houses: 743

Number of families and separate occupiers: 751

Rateable Value: £12,248.

Sum represented by a penny rate: 347.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total	14	18
Legitimate	14	18
Illegitimate	-	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 14.7

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 England and Wales - 15.1 (Registrar General's figures).

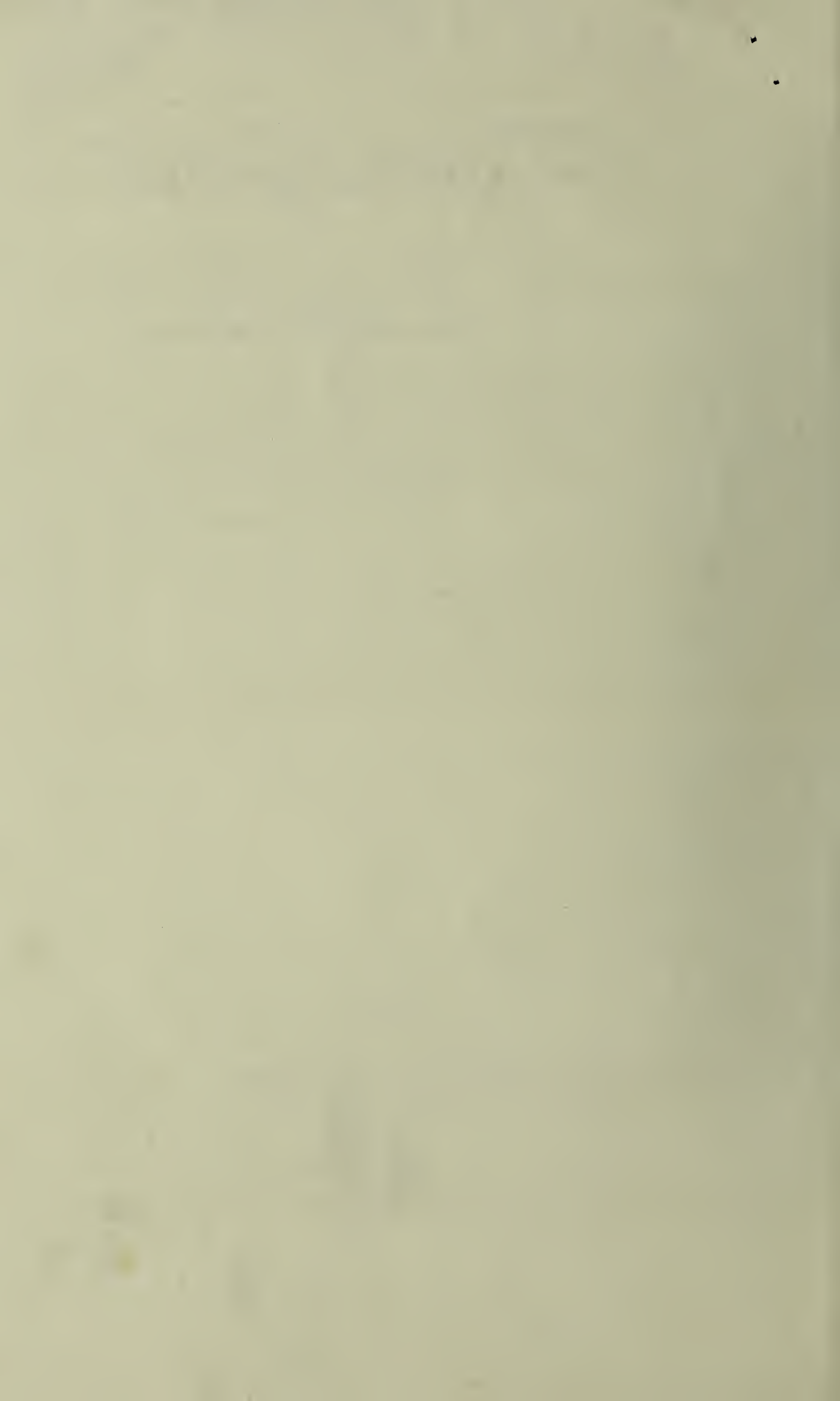
The Birth Rate has been steadily rising for the last 2 years. From the low figure of 8.5 per 1,000 for 1936 to 10.6 in 1937.

Still Births.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 population - 0.92.		

Deaths.

<u>All Causes.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Causes of Death:-			
Cancer	2	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	2	1
Influenza	1	-	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	-
Carried forward	9	5	4



<u>Deaths (Continued)</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Brought forward	9	5	4
Heart Disease	4	4	-
Other Circulatory diseases	1	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	-	2
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	2	2	-
Digestive Diseases	1	1	-
Congenital debility & premature) birth.)	1	1	-
Suicide	1	-	1
Other violence	1	1	-
Other defined disease	1	1	-
	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

Death Rate per 1,000 population - 10.5

This figure multiplied by the Comparability factor for comparison with the Registrar General's figure for England & Wales is 8.92 as against the figure for the Country in general of 11.6. In any case this figure is low as compared with that for 1937 which was 14.8 after multiplying by the Comparability factor.

The year 1938 was a healthy year for this area, there was little or no influenza during the early months of the year with a consequent diminution in the number of cases of respiratory complaints, this is reflected in the death rate as compared to 1937 in which year there was a widespread influenza outbreak in the early spring.

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Total)		
Legitimate)	Nil.	Nil.
Illegitimate)		

Deaths from Measles all ages - Nil.

Whooping Cough all ages - Nil.

Diarrhoea under 2 years - Nil.

Puerperal Sepsis & Other Puerperal Causes - Nil.

Cancer - 2.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority consist of a Medical Officer of Health, part time employed, C.C.C. Court M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. and a Sanitary Inspector who combines the post with that of District Surveyor to the Ilminster Urban District Council, Mr. G. K. Foster A.R.S.I.

Hospital facilities, Ambulance Transport and Home Nursing arrangements are as described in my previous reports.

Schools.

The Schools in the Area have been inspected and found to be in a sanitary condition; the public water supply is laid on to all schools and the drainage connected to the public sewers. As Medical Officer of Health I paid a number of visits to both the primary schools and the Ilminster Grammar School on account of odd cases of infectious disease.

Sanitary Conditions of the Area.

Rivers and Streams. There was no gross pollution of rivers and streams in the area during 1938.

Water Supply. The water supply is pure and abundant and the average yield of the springs is now 150,000 gallons per day.

There are now only 33 houses supplied by wells and 25 houses by private piped supplies.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. Only 23 houses are not connected to the sewers. The sewage is still treated by broad irrigation only, and during the summer months conditions were not good. Messrs. Kraft Dairies Ltd. have commenced the construction of tanks to equalise the flow of wastes from the milk factory into the sewers, and preliminary treatment plant is also being installed by them.

Scavenging and House Refuse. The streets are scavenged daily and the house refuse collection undertaken twice weekly from all parts of the town in covered motor lorry. The refuse is incinerated at the Refuse Destructor.

Housing.

The housing of the District has been making steady progress, there still remain a few houses to be dealt with, as regards the provision of new houses there is a need for houses at a lower rent and also some accommodation for elderly couples and single persons with small incomes.

Number of houses erected during the year:-

- (a) 1. By Local Authority - Nil.
- 2. By other Local Authorities - Nil.
- 3. By other bodies or persons - 12.

- (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.
- 1. By Local Authority - Nil.
- 2. By other bodies or persons - Nil.

Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Total number of houses inspected for defects under P.H. or Housing Acts. | 210 |
| Number of inspections for the purpose | 320 |
| 2. Number of houses under Sub-division 1 above which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925. | 199 |
| 3. Houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. | 145 |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses found to be not in all respects unfit for human habitation, excluding those in three above. | 43 |
| 5. No action found necessary | 25 |
| | 31 |

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

- | | |
|---|----|
| Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or its Officers. | 5 |
| Number of houses owned by Local Authority. | 45 |
| Do. built by the L.A. during 1938. | - |

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of such notices during 1938:- | |
| By owners | Nil. |
| By L.A. in default of owners. | Nil. |

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. | Nil. |
| 2. Number of houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notice. | Nil. |
| By owners | Nil. |
| By L.A. in default of owners. | Nil. |

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of Housing Act, 1926.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. | Nil. |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in compliance with demolition orders prior to 1938. | Nil. |

3. Number of undertakings to repair.	Nil.
4. Do. do. complied with	Nil.
5. Notices served under section 19.	Nil.
6. Undertakings given prohibiting house to be used for human habitation.	Nil.

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	Nil.
2. Number of families dwelling therein.	Nil.
3. Do. persons do.	Nil.
(b) 1. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1
(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	1
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases	3
(d) 1. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the L.A. have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.	Nil.

Total number of inspections made exclusive of Housing:-

<u>Detailed Inspections.</u>	<u>Number made.</u>	<u>Number Defective.</u>	<u>Defects Remedied.</u>
Bakehouses	8	Nil.	Nil.
Dairies, Milkshops & Cowsheds	29	1	1
Slaughterhouses	380	1	1
Schools & Railway Stations	5	Nil.	Nil.
Factories and Workshops	19	2	1
Nuisances, drains, water etc.	42	Nuisances abated 14	
<u>Notices served.</u>			
(a) Statutory notices			Nil.
(b) Informal do.			4

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. The cowsheds and dairies in the District have been regularly inspected and found generally clean and in fair order.

Number of producers on the Register is divided as follows:-

(a) Distributors only	6
(b) Distributors who are also producers.	8
Number of producers on the Register.	9
Number of licences given to graded milk producers (Accredited 1)	1

Meat Inspection Frequent inspections have been made.

Meat condemned during the year:-

Pigs 6	Heads 22	internal organs 5	carcasses 2
Oxen 5	Heads 14	internal organs 12	carcasses 3
Sheep	Heads Nil.	internal organs 2	carcasses Nil.

Number of slaughterhouses. 5 Licenses, Registered 3.

Diseases. After cases of infectious diseases rooms are disinfected.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

There were two mild cases of Diphtheria notified in one family during the year, and three sporadic cases of scarlet fever, the cases of diphtheria and one case of scarlet fever were sent for admission to the Shepton Mallet Isolation Hospital.

There were also three cases of Sonne's Dysentery which were confirmed by bacteriological examination; these occurred in the early part of the year and were the aftermath of an extensive outbreak of this disease which occurred during 1937 as the result of the consumption of infected icecream.

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease in Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	10-15	20-25	35-45	up
Pneumonia					1				
Scarlet Fever					2		1		
Diphtheria					2				
Sonne Dysentery						1		2	
Erysipilus								2	
Total					1 4	1	1	2 2	

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

The Scheme approved by the County Medical Officer of Health for the general immunisation of children against Diphtheria came into operation during the latter months of 1938. Children from 1 to 5 years of age may receive the treatment from private practitioners in the area at the County expense, while children over five years of age attending school will be immunised by the County School Medical Officers. This prophylactic treatment is of course voluntary but it is hoped that parents will take full advantage of the facilities offered by the County Council.

Prevention of Blindness.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, or inflammation of the eyes in newly born infants occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken or found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1935. The notification of tuberculosis is carried out in a satisfactory manner in this district.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15								
25								
35		2			1			
45		1			2			
55								
65 & up.								
Total		3			3			

Factories and Workshops.

The Factories and Workshops in the District have been inspected and found to be in a satisfactory sanitary condition. Details are given on form 572.

I remain, Mr.Chairman & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

C.C.COURT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Ilminster Urban District Council.

14th.July 1939.

